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THE PERFINS CLUB

An organization of philatelists, devoted to the collection and study of Perforated Initials and Insignia in postage stamps
Founded 1943

A HISTORY OF THE PERFINS CLUB

A research project

by

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Morristown, New Jersey
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AUTHOR'S FORWARD

Little did I know back in February, 1967 what a big job I was taking on when I decided to study and write a history of the Perfins Club. I didn't realize that in the next six months that I would write nearly 200 letters to members and former members in an effort to produce this work. Who would have thought that I would visit members and others and would develop a full filing cabinet of material just on this study? I didn't know that I would have seven loose leaf notebooks and nearly 2,000 file cards of information about the club. Perhaps it is just as well that I didn't know how big a job it has been. It has been a lot of fun, and I guess that I would do the same thing again.

I had my work ready to publish in the fall of 1967, but then never got it on stencils so that the club could produce it. Finally, this spring, I got around to doing this.

Because of my interest in this work, I was named as Secretary of our club, and this has been a great help to my writing. Between the historical study and the work as Secretary, I have had a great deal of pleasure being in contact with so many fine people.

Richard L. Mewhinney #524
The Perfins Club

INTRODUCTION

A history of the Perfins Club begins with the date of December, 1943. Little can be said of the beginnings of our club as no official records have come to the attention of the author. The bibliography at the end of this study will show the sources of information used to complete this work. If anyone can supplement or correct any part of this work, it would be appreciated if they would contact the author so that an accurate record may be kept. Some of the information in this history is based upon the recollections of present and former members and it is possible that there are minor inaccuracies due to the passing of time. In most all cases, the information received from individuals is verified by existing records or other persons.

Several persons are known to have been interested in perfins and to have studied them during the years prior to the formation of the Perfins Club. G. H. Harden wrote articles about perfins back in 1936 that appeared in the "WEEKLY PHILATELIC GOSSIP." Carl Welcome of Westfield, Mass. had a very large collection that was terminated in the 1920's. Part of Mr. Welcome's collection later came into the hands of former member, Walter Jackson of New Jersey, who purchased it from a dealer in that same state. The collection had been sold after the death of Mr. Welcome to someone in Providence, R.I. It must have contained much more than was procured by Mr. Jackson, as is indicated by a file of blueprint copies that he received with the collection. This file is now in the possession of the author and some copies are in the hands of the Catalog Chairman, K. F. Lougee. Mr. Lougee has verified that a few of the perfins shown in this file are still among the missing and are yet to be located.

Several others of the New England area are known to have worked with Mr. Welcome. Three of these were early members of our club; namely, John Dow, Von McPherson, and Dr. Robert Talisman. Mr. Dow developed a system of cataloging perfins that helped form the beginnings of our present system, this being changed and developed over the years.

A CLUB

Sometime in the early part of 1943, a gentleman by the name of Hallock Card of Otselic, N. Y. noted an advertisement in "LINN'S" about perfins. The advertiser, one Warren Travell. This is our beginning. But for these two men, this work may never have been written, or at least would have been a different story. Mr. Card, a printer, was at this time sending out a monthly advertising pamphlet called the "HOMESTEAD HOBBYIST" to some 700 subscribers. Mr. Card answered Mr. Travell's advertisement and a correspondence developed. Warren Travell urged Hallock Card to start a club using the "HOMESTEAD HOBBYIST" as a media of spreading information. Travell had found several mentions of perfins in various periodicals and insisted that many collectors were saving perfins but had no way of contacting each other.

Hallock Card did use his little advertising pamphlet to spread the word and an organization was formed and members were accepted into the group. All available information indicates this founding date to be December, 1943. Dues, forms of that period, and letters written by Hallock Card at later dates list this month and year.

Thanks to the help of Miss Flora Clark #11, who sent the author some copies of the "HOMESTEAD HOBBYIST," and to Mrs. Lillian Card, Hallock's mother, with whom we have spent several enjoyable visits, much of the early information is verified.

OFFICIAL RECORDS - 1945

The first official publication of the Perfins Club was the first issue of "PERFINs" that came out in April, 1945. A membership list at this time shows a total of 28 members. The club had three officers, Warren Travell #4 was our President, Hallock Card #1 was our Editor-Secretary-Treasurer, and in June, 1945, Charles Metz #3 was named as our first Vice President. Others on the roster included John Dow #15, Von McPherson #14, and present members, Miss Flora Clark #11, Miss Lillian Jensen #23, George Wettach #8, and Frank Young #26.

The nine months of that first calendar year show great growth. By the end of the year, we had 47 members and had published four issues of "PERFINs." With the very first issue, we started to develop our catalog, beginning with the letter A. Warren Travell worked up the first catalog and it was printed and sent out to members by Hallock Card. The catalog information was developed from the stamps in the collections of Travell and Dow. Messr. Travell and Dow differed strongly as to methods of measurement of perfins. Mr. Dow preferred a system of "holes high" while Mr. Travell preferred the Millimeter method.

Lillian Card, Hallock's mother indicates that originally the club dues were 25¢ a year. With the issuance of the first bulletin, the yearly cost was 50¢ a year with all dues payable on May 1st. Seven of the 31 members who joined during 1945 are still with us. This is the year that brought us our present Editor David Stump, our Catalog Chairman, K. F. Lougee, my fellow historian, Irving Swallow, our representative from the Martha Washington Stamp Club of Springfield, Mass. (originally Mrs. King and now Mrs. Methven), Ralph Stuntzner, Monroe Marlow, and Edmund Fish. Our membership loss in this year was a total of eight persons.

In addition to membership lists, advertisements and catalog information, the bulletins of 1945 contained some other items that might prove to be of interest. Articles were written on the values of perfins (10¢ per hundred assorted), a list of countries having used perfins (67), a rating system of values rather like our present system but using five categories, and several articles on how to mount perfins.

GROWING - 1946

Continual growth is shown with a total of 95 members at the end of the year. We gained 51 new members and lost only 3. Seven issues of "PERFINs" were published, each with additional catalog pages. Each issue contained two pages of general interest and four pages of catalog. Five of the members who joined us this year are still members.

Some members in the early years had their own methods of cataloging and collecting that differed greatly from the now accepted form. Everything was new at that time and many methods were tried. The first indication of perfins being exhibited is noted when Bernard Seymour #34 showed his collection at a Stamp Club meeting.

We enrolled our first member from overseas, Charles Bein #92 of England. Some attention was given to the club in the philatelic press as advertisements appear in "LINN'S WEEKLY STAMP NEWS," "WEEKLY PHILATELIC GOSSIP," and "WESTERN STAMP COLLECTOR."

TROUBLES - 1947-48

Growth was not as great during this two year period. Sixteen members were added in 1947 and 18 in 1948. Sadly, we lost 26 members in the first year and 14 the second. Our total membership at the end of 1947 was down to 85 and at the end of 1948 was 99. Each year we had five issues of the bulletins. Each issue contained articles about collecting and mounting perfins.

The club dues were increased April 1, 1947 to \$1 a year with the indication that a monthly report would be produced. Articles appeared for the first time on the reproduction of perfins designs. Some of these early articles bear consideration as to being reproduced in present bulletins. Mr. Bain's sorting article, one about "Splits" by Warren Travell, and several others are still as pertinent today as when they were written. The first sign of topical collecting of perfins is noted in an article by Bob Gray #80 about Railroad Perfins. This is the beginning of our special catalogs about the perfins of these transportation companies that have been so popular with our members.

Schermacks were mentioned about this time and a listing of the various varieties was given. For the first time a prize winning display of perfins is noted as a third place winner at the Central New York Philatelic Society exhibition in Rome, N.Y. in September of 1948. Bernard Seymour #34 thus has the honor of being the first member to have a prize winning perfin exhibit.

LOOKING BACK

Great things have happened over this short period of years. A few dedicated people have started a club and by their interest have created an entire new field of philately. There were others before them but not persons so strongly interested that they caused the formation of a group of sincere members. The club of 1948 may not seem like much of an organization in comparison to the club of today, but when one closely examines the records, he will see many facets of perfin collecting that could help develop our work even further than we have done so far.

Our club membership was just under 100 members and yet we had a catalog developed up to the letter M, crude by our present standards, but the baby that became the present giant that we are all so proud to have. May we always have members like Hallock Card, Warren Travell, John Dow and so many others. Then too, we must remember that 20 of the 140 persons who had been members in those early years are still active in the club. This is quite an accomplishment when you consider that the tides of time carry us in so many directions.

THE DARK AGES - 1949-51

What is happening? Only one issue of the "Bulletin" came out between August of 1948 and the beginning of 1952. Three whole years go by and only one little issue that can be counted as official records of what had been an active growing organization.

Piecing things together from items in later "Bulletins," correspondence and visits with members and former members, indicates that the story goes something like this: The club had been sparked, pushed, and operated primarily by two persons, Warren Travell and Hallock Card. As so often happens when a group is held together by only a few active members and they are no longer able to continue, it falls apart. Mr. Travell resigned in 1950 due to ill health and passed away the following year. Mr. Card, already a diabetic, suffers a serious auto accident, has eyesight problems, and business difficulties as well. One of our spark plugs is gone and the second is in no condition to keep the club running, no matter how hard he tries. (With two cylinders of an engine not functioning, it is difficult to keep it going even though the other parts are in good working order.) Some of the members gave up and left the group, some simply waited patiently; but fortunately, there were some who became impatient to get the organization running again.

Although we have no really active leadership during this period, we do pick up a few new members. Seven in 1949, 5 in 1950, and 3 in 1951. At the same time, our losses total 56 members. Some of you may wish to argue about the exact times that these members joined or dropped out, but I'll go along with Irving Swallwell #33 as he records the membership in his "HISTORICAL MEMBERSHIP STUDY" produced in 1967 but never published. Of the 155 members who had belonged to the club, only 58 remain at the end of 1951.

THE REBUILDING - 1951-52

A letter went out from Keith Misegades #63 dated November 15, 1951. Mr. Misegades wrote all members that he could locate in an effort to get the club going again. He indicated the loss of Mr. Travell and that Mr. Card had resigned as Secretary-Editor because of his health, and he offered to try and get things going again. You know what happens when someone speaks up and puts forth effort to get work done. Keith was elected President of the Club, and there were no other nominations. Mr. Misegades had himself a real job on his hands in trying to reorganize the club. With new spark plugs, the engine got started again and with Keith providing the repairs and lubrication, we soon were growing stronger and better than before. Fortunately, a catalog committee had been working during the dark ages and much material was ready to be processed if someone was willing and able to take the leadership and to see that the work got out. Keith did just that.

Things really started to happen and they happened fast with the help and aid of many devoted perfomers. Some new names are in the forefront right from the first issue of the "Bulletin" in January, 1952. In addition to Keith Misegades as president, we have new member, Bill Corlies #155 as Secretary, and another new member Jo Ro Jung #152 as Editor. Charles Metz #2 carries on as Vice

President. For a while Mr. Jung edited the "Bulletin" and Mr. Misegades published it; but as things worked out, Mr. Jung became so involved in club publicity that Mr. Misegades did the "Bulletin." It must be noted that Mr. Jung did a really bang-up job of publicity that has been unmatched right up to the present. I have in my files the original letters of inquiry that he received and answered about the club and their volume is unbelievable. The enrollment growth of this period shows the results of such publicity. Mr. Jung was able to have articles published in many of the philatelic periodicals of this time, and I am fortunate to have copies of the original drafts and clippings of most of these articles.

It is indicated at this time that the primary jobs to be done by the club are to continue the perfins catalog and to write a club constitution. The catalog committee is working and soon the catalog pages start rolling off the press. The constitution suggested by Charles Metz is approved, and we are starting to grow again.

The "Bulletins," twelve in number, contained one to three pages of general information and several pages of catalog. A new method of rating perfins was suggested, but did not seem to get too far. Articles were written on perfins oddities, Schermacks, illustration of perfins, imperfections, perfins machines, buying and selling and exchanging perfins, and others. The catalog was the main concern and work really progressed. We find that several names come up again and again in this area of work. In addition to Misegades, we have Messrs. Jackson, Lougee, Persans, Corliss, Metz, and Bartleson working as a committee that develops the catalog up to the letter S by the end of the year.

In March, 1952, we had only 25 members on our roster; but by the end of the year, we had reached 88. Of this number, 35 members were new to our ranks. It might be noted that of the 101 members who left our group during the 1948-51 period, only four have rejoined the group since 1952, one of them joining as late as 1967. Club dues were increased in January to \$1.50 a year.

Keith Misegades was very interested in the various articles that he found in the philatelic press about perfins and he started listing them in the "Bulletin." Several members exhibited their perfins and Charles Regnier won an award. A contact committee was formed to work with the membership to help improve communication within the club.

Historically, this is one of our great years. The diversity of work and the vast amount that was produced under such difficult conditions is amazing. What a reorganization it has been. We are now really moving as a club should move, and we are strong enough to keep moving from here on in.

MOVING AHEAD - 1953

The new year has Keith Misegades continuing as President and Editor, and Charles Metz as our Vice President. David Stump #32 becomes our new Secretary-Treasurer. We also have working committees on catalog, member contact, publicity, topicals and railroads. The publicity committee is going great guns, and we gain 36 new members during the year and only lose 3.

Several lists of articles on perfins in the philatelic news are given in the Bulletin as they will continue to be as long as Mr. Misegades leads the club. A small auction of 33 covers takes place and this is the first time such an activity is presented. Articles appear on mounting, cataloging, Finnish Perfins, and on perforating machines.

A new listing of foreign countries using perfins is given and before the year is up, we add ten more giving a total of 102 countries. This list was compiled by Victor Van Lint, a man who will do much for the hobby over the next few years.

With the coming of December, we have ten years under our belt and are up to 121 active members of the 226 who have belonged to the club over the years. We have nearly completed our first catalog, and various programs of the club are moving along.

A NEW DECADE BEGINS - 1954

We grow by only two members during this year as we gain 16 and lose 14. The same officers remain, although there are some committee changes. Mr. K. F. Lougee becomes the catalog chairman, a position that he holds from January, 1954 up to the present. The catalog revision continues with the first letters of the alphabet, and more worksheets are circulated among the members to develop it even further.

The "American Appraisal" oddity is discussed and other interesting articles appear. Our members are becoming more show conscious, and several of them are winners of awards. Ten "Bulletins" come out during the year at a time when our President-Editor is in the midst of moving to Washington, D. C. and getting settled in his new work.

GO-GO-GO! - 1955

The year opens with a bang. We have our first big break with the philatelic papers in a special issue of "LINN'S" in February. This Linn's special brought us 20 new members of the 45 that joined us during the year. We lost six of our group, giving us a membership of 162. The officers remained the same as for the past two years, and little change takes place in committee members.

Nine issues of the "Bulletin" came out, or perhaps I should say, eight regular issues and a huge issue combining November, December, and January of 1956. Our president was having difficulty keeping up with the perfins work as his employment and home duties became more and more demanding. I am sure that it was with regret that he had to limit his perfins activities and at the end of the year, he relinquished his presidency, although he remained with us as Editor of our "Bulletins."

LEADERSHIP CHANGES - 1956

The changing of Presidents worked out quite well with Charles Regnier #62 taking over. We did not have much of a let down, as Mr. Misegades was passing on an active organization to another strong leader who had a group of interested people with whom to work. Mr. Misegades himself was remaining in a position where he could offer a helping hand. Things are now different than they were eight years earlier. This time we only hesitate a little and then get on the move again.

A great deal of work and time went into the catalog revision, as this was considered to be the most important part of our activities. It takes time to send out work sheets, get them tabulated, and then publish them. During this year, we published a 15-page Danish catalog edited by Victor Van Lint. We also produced a listing of what our U. S. catalog contained.

Only four issues of the "Bulletin" came out, but what issues they were! In addition to the catalog work, we had a two-page article on the German P.O.L. Perforations, an excellent write-up about the award-winning display of Miss Flora Clark #11.

Our Vice President, Charles Metts, who had held the position from the start of the club, is forced to resign because of illness, and Mrs. Frank Crosby #44 takes over this job. This year we see the beginning of one of our very important programs when Mrs. Jaque Newman #280 starts the Perfin Exchange. Mrs. Newman is a newer member of the club, having been with us about a year when she took on this difficult job. Jaque handled this job for the next seven years, and many members are thankful for the help she gave them.

We had another "LINN'S" Special early in 1956, but this time it did not bring us the large number of new members the previous special did. Keith Misegades edited the articles as he had done before. Only 16 new members joined us during the year and we lost three. Our total active membership is now 175.

STEADY AS SHE GOES - 1957

This year we start to see the patterns of the future develop as we continue on our way. Membership increases by 8 as we get 38 new members and we lose 30. We now have a roster of 183 names. Our catalog revision begins to show results and more and more catalog pages go out to members.

Keith Misegades is very busy with his employment and home duties and receives some relief when Dave Stump, our Secretary-Treasurer, begins to help out with the publishing of the "Bulletins." As time goes by, Dave takes on the task of editing as well as publishing. He gets help in this from Len Paul #277 and from John Steel #278.

I can't help but interrupt the theme of this story at this point and give a testimonial. Dave Stump is "MR. PERFIN," without question. He was our Secretary for 11 years and has been our Treasurer for over 16. He has been doing our "Bulletins" ever since this point in our history. Our good friend has met more Perfin Club members than most of us have ever heard of. He has been visited and in turn has visited with many.

Dave has done his share and more in just about all areas of perfin work. He has exhibited often and has won at least 30 awards. Then too, there is the set of slides and the write-up that goes with them that he prepared. He buys us catalogs and supplies at cut-rate prices, and he does anything he can to help our club move forward.

How many of us would turn a large room of our house over to the Perfin Club? Dave has! Who is willing to handle the volume of mail that comes in and out of the Stump household? Not many! How many would be willing to give up working on their collections for over two years so that they could handle the business of the club? Once again, not many!

What a blessing to have a man like this as a king-pin of our club and let's not forget Dave's gracious wife, Dorothy, who not only puts up with all this but helps him out by making up perfin packets and entertaining perfiners and their families. May we never forget the great work that this man has done for our specialty and may we always think of him as "MR. PERFIN."

Back to our text. Dave and Len started re-cutting stencils and printing catalog pages so that we could have complete catalogs available to everyone. This made it possible for all members to have up-to-date catalogs by simply adding new pages as they came out each month and disregarding the ones they replaced. It also made it possible for new members to purchase a new catalog and not wait until all the pages came out.

Our "Bulletins" took on a new look this year as we first saw our masthead on the April-May issue. At this time page one became a membership page with its listing of members as we know it today. In addition, we find a recapitulation in each issue that makes it easy to know if we have everything that has been sent out. The "Bulletin" gets bigger and bigger with about 10 pages a month. There are so many news items and projects on the go that it would be useless to try to list them all. Several outstanding items that should be mentioned included the following: Word is received that our first Secretary-Treasurer-Editor, Hallock Card has passed on. The Pearless Album Company designed album pages especially for Perfins. Victor Van Lint published a catalog of perfins of the Netherlands. The club put out its first Railroad Catalog under the direction of Walter Ayers #266.

The last issue of "LINN'S" for the year is a "perfin special," and we get excellent coverage once again.

SAILING ALONG - 1958

Our officers remain the same for the year as do our basic committees. We show a growth of 12 members as 39 join us, and we lose 27. Our membership is now up to 195.

Eleven issues of the "Bulletin" come out with one of them a giant double issue. Over 100 pages are received by members. Illustrated pages are sent to members of the Railroad perfins, and a new write-up of Schermacks appears. Members keep winning awards at shows, and we have all sorts of news items about members and happenings.

Member Van Lint personally publishes an illustrated U. S. Perfin Catalog and an illustrated Belgian Catalog that are sold to members desiring them. These illustrated catalogs are a real advance toward our goal of an illustrated catalog-album. It takes us eight more years to get ours out; but when we do so, we have made a major contribution to philately.

PAST THE 200 MARK - 1959

James Lambert #230 became our President in January, and Mrs. Ona McKee #163, our Vice President. We have 28 new members join our ranks and lose 11, bringing our membership to 212.

Our catalog revision continues with about 60 catalog pages and several information sheets. We also publish a 13-page treatise and catalog of the perfins of New Zealand. The "Bulletin" continues to grow, and Bob Pritchard #299 writes a fine two-part article on mounting perfins for exhibit.

It had been my intent when I first planned to write this history to list all the events mentioned in the chronicals and bulletins. Study of our publication indicated that this was highly impractical as so many entirely different items were reported. I had to forego this idea or I would have lost the continuity completely.

BIGGER AND BIGGER - 1960

The same officers remain, and we add 56 new members during the year and lose 24. Our membership is now up to 244. Dues are raised to \$2 a year or \$5 for three years. This is the first increase in 8 years.

Our catalog has grown to include over 5,200 different types of U. S. Perfins. The complete catalog is now available for purchase at \$4, and many of our members take advantage of this buy. Our catalog numbers are made permanent, and changes take place by decimal additions or the dropping of a number if necessary.

Mrs. T.S. Farquharson #51 is made a lifetime member when she paid her dues 25 months in advance at the age of 94. Mrs. Farquharson remained active up until her death early in 1968. Our membership growth may be partially credited to another "LINN'S" special. The "Bulletins" are as newsy as ever, and we see several long articles again appearing. An article on "Railroad Heralds" is of interest as are stories on reproduction of perfins designs and mounting of perfins.

MARKING TIME - 1961

All officers continue in their respective positions and many new features develop in the club. Membership drops for the first time in 12 years, and we can find little reason except perhaps lack of publicity and being too busy. We gained 23 new members but lost 34, dropping us down to 233.

A sales department is put into operation by L.R. Murray #329, and the first of our continuing series of "Thumb-Mail Sketches" appears. Len Paul receives the credit for starting this series that has been of interest to so many of us. A third new feature is the Club Library, which was begun under the direction of Mr. Manfred Marcuse #416. Several members help out by contributing material for this club collection.

We are getting near the end of the alphabet in catalog revision, and we also publish sheets on the Canal Zone and redo the German "P.O.L." Sheets. The "Bulletin" totals over 150 pages for the year. E. M. Pickep #269 presents an excellent article on the "Hawaiian Perfin," and the "NBREPUBLIC" oddity is discussed.

SOME CHANGES - 1962

The year begins with the same officers; but in June, our President, Jim Lambert, resigns and our Vice President, and Mrs. McKee take over his duties. Her former position remains vacant until the end of the year. Mr. Misegades does his usual fine job of compiling the articles for a Linn's special, and we have a huge number of inquiries. It is felt that the personal attention given to these inquiries by Mrs. McKee is one of the reasons such a large number joined the club this year. Seventy-five new members came into the organization, the greatest number in a single year to date. Our loss for the year amounted to 28, giving us a gain of 47 members.

An amendment to the constitution is proposed and passed setting up the tenure of office for officers. Officers will now hold office for three years with staggered terms so that the offices will not all become vacant at the same time.

Our first census count of U.S. Perfins is made by Raymond Snow #475. Forty-five members respond indicating collections from 4305 down to 167 items. A foreign census later in the year shows that members have perfins from 160 different countries. One member, W. J. Pieterse #310 reports over 24,000 different foreign.

Claude Cain #485 runs a contest to find the prettiest U.S. Perfin. Sixty members submit entrys, but the results are inconclusive with the highest number of votes (5) going to catalog number S278, and 29 different designs are named.

The "Bulletin" contains a total of 177 pages and includes a re-run of the "Schermacks," and articles on mistakes in identification, sorting, and the "French Cow" design. We have completed our catalog revision and start over again beginning with the letter "A" and continuing on, this time sticking close to alphabetical order. This is the beginning of the present mimeographed catalog that is still in use.

OVER 300 - 1963

Mrs. McKee continues as President, and Harry B. Okey, Jr. #466 becomes our Vice President. Forty-eight new members join us as 28 leave our ranks giving us a gain of 20 and a membership of 300. During the year, Roy Hannon #441 took over the perfin exchange that Jaque Newman started in 1956 and ran so well over the years.

Our club celebrated its 20th anniversary by presenting an engraved walnut plaque at the Rochester Philatelic Association show for the best exhibit in perfins. Six members participated, the largest number of exhibitors of perfins ever to show. Ralph Stuntzner #39 won the plaque and also a bronze award from the Rochester Association. Bob Bowman #168, one of our British members, won the second award with his first attempt at showing anywhere.

We had the good fortune of having another "LINN'S" special in July. (I wonder where we would be if it wasn't for those Linn's specials on perfins.) Several interesting articles appear in the "Bulletin" including one about Puerto Rico Official Perfins on U.S. stamps and one about perfins helping to catch a Chicago city employee using city hall postage to mail political campaign material.

Our catalog is now revised up to the letter "G," and we also produce special catalog pages on Transval & Orange River Colony, and of German Offices Abroad. Two Danish catalog pages are produced as well.

OUR SECOND DECADE - 1964

January finds us with a new secretary, L. R. Murray #329, who as of this date takes over the secretarial portion of Dave Stump's work. Dave has found that he just couldn't find enough time to be secretary, treasurer, and editor all at the same time and some relief was needed. Our new members total 54, and we lose 26, giving us a total of 328 members.

Kitty Weisz #581 contacts club members in the Chicago area and holds a get-together with 10 perfiners present. These folks are to meet several times over the years. Kitty is a real busy girl as she takes over, also, the operation of the club library when Manfred Marcuse found that he was unable to continue because of business obligations.

An article on Canadian OHMS officials by Roy Wrigley is published in the "Bulletin," and an article on Revenues appears. The "Bulletin" including catalog pages, totals 149 pages. The catalog portion contains revisions up through the letter "N" and a special page on perfins of Brazil.

L. R. Murray ran our first auction of perfins with 147 lots up for sale. "First" night might be considered incorrect as an auction of covers had been held back in 1953, but we will accept this terminology as only covers had been in the sale in 1953. All items were sold, and prices realized ranged from 10¢ to \$10.25 per lot. Some of the higher priced lots were a quantity of stamps rather than single items.

MORE THAN EVER BEFORE - 1965

The year begins with the same slate of officers, but with the resignation of L. R. Murray as secretary in March. Frank Neal #179 takes over the job. Largely because of the publicity received by a "LINN'S" special late in January, we have 76 new members. This is the largest number that ever joined in one year; and even though we lost 33, we now have a grand total of 371 active members.

The Chicago group of perfiners are meeting and another group is formed by Virginia Gubler #181 and Audrey Pankratz #459 in the Rochester, New York area. Jim Harris #637 suggests that members send packets of perfins to new members as their names are published in the "Bulletin." Jim's idea takes hold and is a continuing activity of many club members.

A second Auction is held by L. R. Murray at the end of the year. This time 191 lots are offered and again all are sold. Prices realized run from 45¢ to \$15.60. The average price is considerably higher than a year ago.

The "Bulletin" is as large and newsy as ever, but we find that the articles on various aspects of the hobby to be few. One hundred and fifty seven pages of "Bulletin," including catalog are sent out to each member. The catalog revision continues up through the letter "V," and additional pages are presented as topical catalogs of Steamship Companies, and Oil and Refining Companies. Work is begun on a railroad catalog by Jim Harris.

THE BIG ONE - 1966

All officers continue in office for the year. Membership lags with only 33 new members and a loss of 55. We drop to 349 members, our first drop in five years and our largest drop since those dark years of the early 50's. This, I believe not to indicate a loss of interest in the club, but more probably the fact that we were so occupied with our projects and had no big publicity push that we didn't get enough members in to make up for the loss.

Although we took a membership loss, I believe that we can consider 1966 to be our greatest year to date. Our revised mimeographed catalog is complete and we move rapidly with our printed catalog. The printed catalog has been our aim for many years, and the realization of this achievement means a great deal to the club. Credit for this achievement goes to many persons, but special note must be given to some. To K. F. Lougee, our catalog chairman for the marvelous job of actual cataloging, to L. R. Murray for the photography and to Jim Harris for the publishing and distribution with the help of Dave Stump. Jim really got the job over the hill when he published the new Railroad Catalog in photo-offset early in the year and the same type of work was carried over into the U. S. Catalog. When the first letters came out, we figured on several years to completion; but soon after the end of 1966, our catalog was complete. In addition to the catalog, Claude Cain #485, worked up rating sheets for the entire catalog that are rapidly strengthening our club auctions and exchange as well as causing more trading between members.

As if the catalogs weren't enough we also produced and sent members the regular "Bulletins" and instruction pages for the new catalog. Catalog pages of the perfins of Ireland, of Thailand, and topicals came to us.

A third perfion auction is held by Mr. Murray with 515 lots up for bid. Prices realized run from 5¢ to \$6.10. \$615.78 is the total taken in, with an average of \$1.20 for each lot. This feature of our work is so well received that we will hold two auctions each year from here on in.

CHANGES AGAIN - 1967

James P. Harris, #637, is our new president. We know Jim from his work with the printed catalogs, and realize that with this leader we will go on to greater and greater heights of endeavor.

Unfortunately, Frank Neal, our Secretary, finds it necessary to resign because of a health problem and the club must find a replacement. The author was asked to fill this position and has done this from May of 1967 up through the present. During the summer we also lost the services of our Vice President and Contact Chairman, Harry Okey. The position remained vacant until the end of the year.

Jim Harris made several appointments at this time that have proved to be most helpful to the club. Richard Brown #494 was named as publicity director, Jan Prins #586 was named foreign perfins chairman, and Virginia Gubler #181 was named to work with new members. Bob Gray #80 was to take over the railroad catalog committee.

The Hallock Card Award was instituted for "Outstanding Service to the Club," and will be given annually. The first recipient of this award is K. F. Lougee, our catalog chairman.

Larry Owen #606 starts a swap program, Alex Findley #248 presents a writeup about Precancels on perfined stamps and a catalog page on perfins of Greece appears. We had 17 catalog pages and 21 topical pages come out this year. We gained 45 members and lost 51, giving us a membership of 343.

MORE DEVELOPMENTS - 1968

Dorothy Savage #664 is named as our new Vice President and Contact chairman. Dorothy takes on the job of contacting all applicants and answering all inquiries about the club. She really does a fine job of this, and the club shows growth because of her efforts.

A questionnaire is sent to members of the club, and we find that members range in age from 16 to 94 years of age with an average age of 46. Our members represent 131 different occupations. Our president, Jim Harris, is hospitalized and offers to resign his position, but it is felt that we can carry on until he is able to be back on the job. Jim recovers satisfactorily, and we move forward.

A revenue perfins catalog is started this year, and we have 13 topical catalog pages as well as a three-page catalog of Finland and one of Palestine. We gain 72 members and lose 54, giving us a membership of 360. Many of these new members come to us as a result of the "LINN'S" special in July. Keith Misegades is again the editor of this feature.

The Hallock Card Award goes to our Editor, David C. Stump, for his extensive service to the club.

TWENTY FIVE YEARS UNDER OUR BELT - 1969

Our 26th year starts with the same officers and an active, creative club producing a lot of good philatelic work. Editor Stump and helper Len Paul produce a complete set of "A. & C." pages for the mimeographed catalog that totals 60 pages.

Our British friends conduct a survey of collections of British perfins and ask our aid. The results of this census have not as yet been presented.

The third Hallock Card Award is presented to Len Paul for his help in producing the club "Bulletin" for so many years. Dave and Len get some additional help as our old mimeograph machine is replaced by a fine electric model.

The former "Schermack pages" are remade and brought up to date. Several catalog pages are replaced and we develop a four-page catalog of Norway. Last year, our printed catalog won a silver award at Rochester, and this year it wins a gold award in Chicago. I would think that this shows we have pretty good reason to be proud of the catalog.

December brings us another "LINN'S" special with our Secretary editing the articles for the first time. We gain 40 new members during the year and lose 42, taking us to a total of 358 members.

THE PRESENT - 1970

The prospects look good for the Perfins Club. We have in process a very large and complete Danish Perfin Catalog Prepared by Peter Anderson #685. Then too, in progress is the Revenue Catalog, a Swiss Catalog, and the beginnings of catalogs of Austria, Czechoslovakia, and perhaps one of Poland. Foreign Chairman, Jan Prins, has presented a report on foreign perfins that indicates even more work is being done.

Our twice yearly auctions are doing well, and the membership seems to be active in many ways. We have a very large showing at Unipex III in Syracuse with 11 members exhibiting.

Yes, the future looks bright. We are producing more topical and foreign catalog pages, and articles of interest keep showing up in the bulletins. The constant revision of our catalog of U.S. Perfins, under the able direction of Mr. Lougee continues as we move forward.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

I am taking the liberty of listing my source materials differently than is considered proper in current methods of writing. This is done because very little of the material is available except in the files of the author. Certain individual members of the club may have some of the material and perhaps a few items could be found in philatelic libraries; but in general, they are elusive items.

The source materials used include:

1. Perfins Club Bulletins #1 to 225.
2. Catalog pages and work sheets produced from 1945 to present.
3. Correspondence file of Jo Ro Jung.
4. Correspondence file of Walter Jackson.
5. Correspondence file (Part) of Warren Travell.
6. Correspondence file (Part) of Hallock Card.
7. "Historical Membership information Roster & Master Index" Irving Swalwell, 1967
8. Present Secretarial records of the Perfins Club.
9. Correspondence carried on by the author with many members and former members.
10. "LINN'S" Special Perfins issues.
11. Many articles published in the philatelic press.
12. Various items belonging to our founder, Hallock Card.

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